

insidious wiles against which he warns us: and the lesson taught by his words was founded on his own experience. To us they seem like the words of prophecy which in our day have been fulfilled.

His apprehensions were aroused by the insidious wiles of a few emissaries, who strove to poison the minds of our people with principles foreign to our government; and to inspire them with hatred arising, not from injuries to American interests, but from sympathies for a foreign nation.

The disseminators of these prejudices in his time, were few: unimportant in number or influence, sometimes openly avowing their intentions, but not yet daring enough to claim the right, as the representatives of a foreign interest, to control the policy of the nation.

But we, in our day, behold the whole country overflowed by a constantly rising tide of foreign immigration, until it now threatens to deluge and efface the ancient landmarks of the republic: to change the national character, and to originate methods of government inconsistent with the perpetuation of our free institutions.

Our native population is industrious, enterprising and prosperous: yet their industry is burthened and their accumulations eaten up by the support of foreign paupers, annually cast on our shores: and the comforts and conveniences of life, which energy and thrift secure, are abridged to our industrious mechanics and laboring classes. These are compelled to share their gains, as well as their political rights, with paupers and criminals, whom corrupt and selfish rulers have allowed to come amongst us.

Nor do they only ruinously compete with our native industry, and devour its substance. We have seen this swarm of immigrants everywhere elevated, in five short years, to the power and dignity of citizenship: without regard to character or fitness, and ignorant of the habits, laws and language of their new home. We have seen them hunted up on the eve of an election, whose result they are to determine, with all their principles of monarchy or anarchy about them, as foreign in heart, as if they had never reached our soil; and openly offering their votes and influence to those who will recognize their claims, as the foreign voting population, to a share in the division of office.

It would be unjust, nor do I design to include in this description, all who have sought our shores.

There are some, and they are not a few, who have from proper motives found a home amongst us; and who have not abused nor sold the privileges of their citizenship. There are many of those amongst us, of foreign birth, who have by a long life of industry and good order, shown their fitness for these privileges; and it is worthy of observation, that this very class are among the most decided in their opinions, as to the necessity for some check and restraint upon this indiscriminate naturalization.